

[21 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) and (d) Government has approved financial restructuring of the company before inviting bids for strategic sale for a minimum of 51 % equity which could go up to 100%. Accordingly, reliefs and concessions have been provided and Consultants have been engaged for JV formation/strategic sale of Nepa Limited. The final decision in regard to selling of the company is dependent on responses received by the Merchant Banker.

Modernisation of BHEL

† 2993. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to modernise Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated for the modernisation of BHEL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: (a) to (c) BHEL has embarked upon a holistic modernisation programme for its facilities at various manufacturing units, encompassing manufacturing, assembly & testing activities in an integrated manner.

Modernisation schemes amounting to Rs. 580 crores have already been formulated so far and out of this, schemes amounting to Rs. 310 crores have been approved and are under various stages of implementation at manufacturing plants of BHEL.

Doordarshan's Agreement with CNN

2994. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan has entered into an agreement with CNN to supplement its international coverage when a similar agreement reached earlier was scrapped;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the annual expenditure involved in the deal?

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: (a) and (b) Doordarshan has entered into an agreement with CNN in March, 2000 to enrich its international news coverage. The agreement *inter-alia* provides for re-broadcast of CNN's live-breaking news' by Doordarshan. Doordarshan can also use excerpts from CNN's International news-source feeds. The earlier agreement entered into between Doordarshan and CNN in June, 1995 related to use of Doordarshan's transponder by CNN for broadcasting its CNN India channel with an insertion of minimum of 2 hours and maximum of 8 hours of Doordarshan programmes. Doordarshan was also to provide a minimum of one-hour transmission slot daily on its terrestrial channel for CNN programming. This agreement was not renewed and allowed to lapse on its expiry in 1997.

(c) Doordarshan is paying an annual sum of \$ 95,000 to CNN for this agreement.

Agency for Nomination to Oscar Film Awards

2995. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the agency for sending proposals from India for nomination to the Oscar Film Awards;

(b) what are the films proposed for awards in different branches of film production during the last five years;

(c) what are the reasons attributed for non-receipt of any Award by Indian Films inspite of enormous talent in various branches of film production, including acting; and

(d) whether Government will consider constituting an agency, if there is none?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: (a) The Oscar Film Awards are conferred by the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, California. The Academy has authorized the Film Federation of India, the apex body of the film industry in India to nominate one Indian film every year for consideration of the award in the foreign language film category.

(b) 1995- "KURUDHIPUNAL" (TELUGU)

1996- "INDIAN" (Tamil)